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E.O. 12958: DECL: 2020/02/23

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [MU](#) [YM](#)

SUBJECT: OMAN'S SULTAN QABOOS AND A/S FELTMAN DISCUSS YEMEN

CLASSIFIED BY: Richard J. Schmierer, Ambassador, State, EXEC; REASON: 1.4(B), (D)

1. (S) SUMMARY: In a February 17 meeting with NEA Assistant Secretary Feltman, Sultan Qaboos

-- Supported President Saleh and a united Yemen;

-- Concurred wholeheartedly with the U.S. analysis and approach to Yemen, especially on the need to maintain pressure on President Saleh;

-- Agreed the fight against al-Qaida should be the highest priority in Yemen and the region;

-- Explained that he had placed Omani security forces on alert to counter al-Qaida;

-- Saw Yemen's 2013 presidential elections as a potential watershed; between now and then Saleh would need to prove himself "worthy" to his fellow Yemenis.

END SUMMARY.

2. (C) NEA Assistant Secretary Jeffrey Feltman called on Oman's Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said February 17. In a meeting lasting almost two-hours, the two focused discussions on Iran and Yemen. This cable reports the Yemen discussion; Iran is reported septel. Also present on the Omani side was MFA Secretary General (D-equivalent) and f

3. (S) SHRINKING CIRCLE. A/S Feltman reviewed the U.S. assessment of the situation in Yemen and President Ali Abdallah Saleh. Saleh appears consisting of family, the military, and some tribal elements. At the same time, Saleh appears focused on non-existential distractions such as

4. (S) BALANCING ACT. The Sultan agreed on the need to support Saleh. Yemen was at a "crucial" point in time. The Yemeni president continues to conduct a "balancing act." Recent information the Sultan has

5. (S) FOCUSING ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION. The Sultan reviewed some history of Yemen. He had been personally involved in efforts to avert the war. Consequently, in the south today there are two schools developing. One is seeking greater autonomy within a united Yemen, and the other seeks independence. Oman supports a united Yemen. The 2012 [sic] presidential election will be a key to gauging the future. Developments in Yemen will be difficult to predict, but Oman will wc

6. (S) NO MORE GAMES. For the present, the Sultan believed that dealing with AQAP was the highest priority for all concerned. Oman's policy is to root out AQAP. The Sultan had recently placed Oman's securit

7. (U) A/S Feltman cleared this message.
Schmierer